

47 FROGNAL
LONDON
NWS 6YA
TELEPHONE 01-4351648

S Elgar Esq
Charnwood House
Stock
Ingatestone, Essex

9 August 1982

Dear Stan

Invitation from Hampstead Cricket Club to Hampstead Hockey Club

Following our recent meetings, conversations held at various times with interested parties at Lymington Road and, most recently, the meeting of our Committee of Management held on 29 July, I am now delighted to be able to write to you on behalf of HCC to say that HHC would be welcome to lease two pitches on our ground for three seasons from 1983/84 on the understanding that, if this letting and associated arrangements should prove successful, your membership would then be assimilated as members of a new hockey section of our Club.

Our proposals are as set out in the accompanying paper, which Richard and I presented to our Committee of Management, subject to the following provisions subsequently agreed by the Committee:

1. The lateral dimension of the first pitch along Alvanley Gardens should not exceed 55 yds.
2. The precise dimensions and situation of both pitches should be agreed in advance. To this end we are taking steps to have a detailed survey of the ground completed during this month.
3. Rental would be paid annually in advance on 1 October, so that payments would become due as follows, when allowance is made for the advance payment of £3000:

1 October 1983:	£3000
1 October 1984:	£1200
1 October 1985:	£2420
4. The playing surface of both pitches would be encompassed by our major 1982/83 programme of ground improvements.
5. On moving from Stage 1 to Stage 2 at the end of the third year, HCC would waive Entrance Fees from members of HHC who were fully paid up - that is on the basis that HCC was, as it were, taking over a corporate entity which was a going concern. But, by the same token, we would expect any funds standing in the name of HHC which were not the property of Hornsey to be transferred to the general reserves of HCC.
6. At Stage 2, the Club would provide goal posts and all ancillary ground equipment and would make arrangements to retail club shirts etc, but players

would be expected to buy and look after their own strip.

7. If our showers or boiler should not prove adequate for the needs of all hockey players and visiting teams, we would undertake any necessary improvements or extensions.

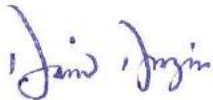
8. You would indicate your intentions by the middle of September - that is on the understanding that your EGM is to take place early in September - so that, one way or another, we can make appropriate plans for the 1983/84 hockey season in good time.

I would also take this opportunity to let you have a copy of our Memorandum and Articles. Should you decide that the future of your club lies elsewhere, perhaps you would be so good as to return it to me in due course.

Do please let me know if you feel that it would be worth airing any other issues before your EGM. Our Committee is very excited about the prospect of such a grand reunion, and we would not want to think that this prospect was jeopardised by any failure on our part to give you any information you may need.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely



David Drazin

cc David Tallon
Richard Jones

PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOCKEY SECTION AT HAMPSTEAD CRICKET CLUB
BY MEANS INVOLVING THE EVENTUAL ASSIMILATION OF HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

Background

1 We met two of the leading lights of HHC - Stan Elgar and George Banting - on 14 April to explore the possibility of HHC resettling at Lymington Road on terms which would make sense to all concerned, and have since spoken to them individually on a number of occasions. We are impressed by their sincerity, the seriousness of their interest, and the realism of their thinking.

2 In short, HHC are a club with proud traditions, high playing standards and strong local connections, but without a permanent home of their own. Recently they completed a five-year trial period as a section of Hornsey Cricket Club. This was felt by many of their members to have been unsuccessful, largely because of poor pitch drainage and ground maintenance, so they are now reconsidering their future. They want to decide between available options at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held early in September. The chief options would appear to be to obtain a better deal at Hornsey (of our tennis section's recent proposals for better facilities) or to throw in their lot with us, given the offer of adequate facilities on acceptable terms. Although their membership of 110 requires four home pitches for use on Saturdays, it is sufficient for them to have only two on their own ground. Currently they hire two outside pitches, and would continue to do so.

3 A number of our own members have expressed an interest in establishing a hockey section at the Club - to play both league and social fixtures - and proposals to this effect have already been accepted by the Committee of Management. The ensuing proposals pre-empt those earlier proposals by providing for the installation of a ready-made hockey section at Hampstead, to be developed and adapted to our needs in the longer term. If they are accepted by all parties concerned, matters will proceed according to programme. If they are rejected by either side, we shall need to know no later than the HHC EGM so that we can resume building our own hockey section from scratch. Prompt action will be needed to procure members and fixtures in time for the 1983/84 season.

Proposals

4 A two-stage programme is proposed: a three-year trial period during which HHC would remain a section of Hornsey and hire our ground, followed (if the trial period should be regarded as a success by both sides) by assimilation of their membership as individuals into a new hockey section of the Club. The arrangements at each stage would be as follows:-

4.1 Stage 1: Three-year trial period

- 4.1.1 HHC would have the use of two pitches from the last weekend of September (or first weekend of October) to the last weekend of March for Saturday games. One of these pitches would be of full size, at least up to the dimensions required by the London League, and the other would be of dimensions acceptable at a lower club level.
- 4.1.2 Sunday fixtures would be arranged by interested members of the Club but, at this stage, there would be no formal hockey section. Players would have the same status as the All Stars footballers.
- 4.1.3 Inter-change of membership would be encouraged: those of our members who played the game at an appropriate level would be invited to join HHC (and pay their subscriptions to Hornsey), while their members who

were interested in playing for us on Sundays would be invited to join the Club as, say, 'associate' members.

4.1.4 The terms of rental to be pitched at a modest level, having regard to the fact that at this stage HHC members would continue to pay subscriptions as individual members to Hornsey (in order to preserve their status in the event of this trial not proving a success) and having regard also to the greater need that the plan proposed should succeed in the longer term. In practice, we would aim to secure the following deal:

- (i) Rental @ £2000 pa for Year 1, inflating at 10% fixed for each of Years 2 and 3.
- (ii) 'Doubling up' @ £10 per extra game played on either pitch on any Saturday.
- (iii) A payment of £3000 to be made in advance.

4.2 Stage 2: HHC established as the hockey section of the Club

- 4.2.1 All 110 HHC members would be assimilated as hockey members of the Club and, as such, would have similar rights and obligations as tennis or squash members.
- 4.2.2 The hockey subscription would conform to the regular rate for a single sport, but student concessions would compare more closely with those given to cricket members than to those given to members of other sections.
- 4.2.3 Hockey members would pay match fees to cover the costs of hiring outside pitches - at about £2 including a match tea.
- 4.2.4 Existing members of the Club, and others whom they should introduce, would be invited to apply for membership of the new hockey section, to play on Saturdays or Sundays according to their aspirations and ability.

Benefits to the Club

5 The benefits which these proposals would confer may be summarised briefly as follows:-

- 5.1 They would promote utilisation of the Club's facilities at weekends off-season, thereby generating increased revenue and strengthening the financial base of the Club, and at the same time contributing to the deterrence of trespass. Financial projections are appended.
- 5.2 They would provide existing and potential new members with an additional outside winter sport.
- 5.3 They would help preserve the cricket outfield in a better state than that permitted by off-season use for football.
- 5.4 They would contribute towards the justification of employing additional ground staff, thereby facilitating an all-round improvement in standards of ground maintenance.

Key matters relevant to the evaluation of these proposals

6 Most of the foregoing benefits would accrue if the Club started its own hockey section although, because of smaller scale and lead time required to establish a healthy section from scratch, the financial benefits would not be as great. There are also some disadvantages in the present proposals, in particular the risk that HHC may wish to withdraw after the trial period. It is our understanding that this risk will be minimised if HHC are satisfied with the size of pitches and the quality of the playing surface, especially in adverse weather conditions (see paragraphs 7 and 8 below). It should also be noted that HHC do not currently cater for women's or mixed hockey, although they are open to suggestions and have a number of interested ladies at the Hornsey club.

7 A vital point to be considered is whether or not we can offer HHC two pitches of acceptable dimensions. The dimensions and situation of the first pitch - which can only be sited between Alvanley Gardens and the cricket square - are all-important. HHC would ideally like a width of 60 yds, encroaching on the far corner of the cricket square to the extent of about 15 ft inside the popping crease of the first wicket; they might well be happy to accept 57 yds, they could even accept 55 yds, but even at this reduced (possibly minimum) width there would be some encroachment. We must decide exactly how much encroachment, if any, we are prepared to allow.

8 The following additional ground maintenance etc would be required during the hockey season:

- (i) Mondays: 1 man-day
- (ii) Fridays: $\frac{1}{2}$ man-day
- (iii) Saturday: inspection of pitches by groundsman at 9.30 am
- (iv) Occasional jobs - eg de-worming

Provision is made for (i) and (ii) in the attached financial projections by way of part-time help.

9 The Club's liquor licence should be advanced to 4.30 pm - about 20 minutes after matches end - in order to exploit the potential afforded by 44 players plus referees and camp followers. The experience of HHC is that 60% of their players continue to drink at the bar after 6.00 pm.

10 Consideration will have to be given to the problem of how to preserve the identity of HHC within an HCC club context. This could be quite tricky but is not felt to be critical to the viability of these proposals. With good will on all sides, we should have as long as three years to find an acceptable solution.